POL 14 VIET S

Department of State TELEGRAM

(1439)

CONFIDENTIAL 038

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06169 231348Z

51 45
ACTION EA-18

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

PRS-01 AID-12 PM-03 DODE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /074 W
102105

P R 231000Z APR 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3887
INFO USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6169

LIMDIS

KATHMANDU FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

SUBJ: US POLICY ON VIET-NAM ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 64107

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐ or XD☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SAIGON 6169 4/23/71

1. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL GUIDELINE HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT REFTEL FOR ISSUANCE, SUBJECT TO YOUR APPROVAL, TO ALL ELEMENTS OF THE US MISSION. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIALIZED COMPONENTS OF MISSION, DEALING WITH PSYOPS, NON-USE OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, PRINTING, ETC., WILL BE PREPARED SEPARATELY AS NECESSARY, WITHIN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF THIS GUIDANCE. INSTRUCTIONS ON REPORTING ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING ANY IRREGULARITIES, WILL BE ISSUED SEPARATELY AND CLOSER TO THE ELECTION.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WILL BE HOLDING A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON OCT 3 AND AN ELECTION FOR THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SOME WEEKS PRIOR TO THAT TIME, PROBABLY ON AUGUST 29.

3. IN HIS RECENT REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON FOREIGN POLICY, PRESIDENT NIXON REAFFIRMED OUR OBJECTIVE IN VIET-NAM AS BEING TO "SEEK THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTER-

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

FERENCE." THIS STATEMENT OF US POLICY REQUIRES ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR THE FREE AND GENUINE EXPRESSION OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S WILL. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE THAT THE COMING ELECTIONS BE CONDUCTED HONESTLY AND FAIRLY.

4. US MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MUST NOT OFFER OR GIVE SUPPORT TO ANY CANDIDATE OR GROUP OF CANDIDATES, POLITICAL PARTY OR ORGANIZATION. THEY MUST AVOID IMPLYING BY WORD, DEED OR ACTS OF PRESENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS ANY INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE OR GROUP OF CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL PARTY FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE. NO AMERICAN-CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, TRANSPORTATION OR OTHER FACILITIES MAY BE USED IN BEHALF OF SUCH CANDIDATES OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAMPAIGNS AND THE ELECTIONS.

5. SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT OF VIET-NAM PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIODS, BUT THIS SUPPORT MUST BE CAREFULLY ADMINISTERED SO IT WILL NOT BE MISCONSTRUED AS US GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR, OR OPPOSITION TO, ANY INDIVIDUAL'S BID FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE. THE ACTIVITIES RECEIVING US GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MUST BE CLEARLY NORMAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS AS DIFFERENTIATED FROM POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION ACTIVITIES. END TEXT.

6. WE PROPOSE THAT PRESIDENT THIEU BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS GUIDANCE BEFORE IT IS ISSUED AND THAT IT BE AVAILABLE TO ALL CANDIDATES, AND TO THE PRESS.
BERGER